

1-37. (Cancelled)

1 38. (Original) A method of forming a lesion in heart tissue of a patient, comprising:
providing an electrophysiological ablating device comprising at least one electrode;
creating an opening in a patient's chest, the opening passing through the chest wall
and into the patient's thoracic cavity;
passing the electrode through the opening;
positioning the electrode adjacent to heart tissue; and
ablating the heart tissue with the electrode to create a lesion in the heart tissue while
the heart is beating.

2 39. (Original) The method of claim 38, comprising the steps of:
creating a second opening in the wall of the patient's heart, the second opening
passing through the wall of the heart and into an interior chamber of the heart;
positioning the electrode through the second opening and within an interior chamber
of the heart prior to the step of ablating the heart tissue with the electrode.

3 40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the step of positioning the electrode
within a chamber of the patient's heart comprises the steps of:
introducing a tubular access device into the second opening, the access device having
an inner lumen and a distal end;
inserting the electrophysiological ablation device through the inner lumen of the
tubular access device such that the electrode extends beyond the distal end of the access
device and within an interior chamber of the heart.

4 41. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the opening is created intercostally
and the electrophysiological ablation device is introduced through the intercostal space.

5 42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the opening is a small percutaneous
incision in the space between the ribs.

6 43. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the opening is created without retracting the sternum.

7 44. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the opening is created without retracting the ribs.

8 45. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of ablating the heart tissue comprises the step of applying radiofrequency energy to create the lesion in the heart tissue.

9 46. (Cancelled)